Officers' cadre in the Army

1509. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee is examining the issue of restructuring the officers' cadre in the Army; and

(b) if so, by when the report of the Committee is expected?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Committee is yet to submit its Report. No. specific time frame can be indicated for submission of the report.

Posting of civilian and service personnel in offices of service HQrs/ISOs

1510. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the existing instructions, the civilian and service personnel are to be posted in varlous offices of service Head Quarters/Inter Services Organisations in the fixed ratio of 80:20;

(b) if so, what is the number of posts of clerks sanctioned during the last five years separately for service and civilian persons in these offices;

(c) whether the above authorisation is strictly as per above instructions; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed for bringing the same within the prescribed limit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir, there are no such instructions for posting of civilians and combatant manpower in the fixed ratio of 80:20 in Service Headquarters/ Inter Service Organisations.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, Sir.

Alternative site for prayer in Hyderabad

1511. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to given an alternative site in Hyderabad for Muslims to offer

prayer in lieu of existing Idgah located at Army Ordinance Corps; and

(b) if so, the action taken on the request?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no Idgah at Army Ordance Corps Centre, Hyderabad. However, an Idgah is located in close vicinity of the family quarters of Station Headquarters, Hyderabad which is located at considerable distance from Army Ordnanace Corps Centre. No request has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for alternative site for Muslims to offer prayers in lieu of this Idgah.

Decodification of Kautilya's Arthshastra

1512. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has approved a proposal to decode Kautilya's Arthshastra and assigned the work to the Defence Research and Development Organisation; and

(b) if so, the detials and cost of the decodification project and its main objectives?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, DRDO has funded a project on 'Scientific Investigation of Warfare Practices in Kautilya's Arthshastra' to Pune University under 'Grants-in-Aid' scheme. The project cost is Rs. 7.31 lakh and its main objectives include investigation of claims made by Kautilya in his Arthshastra on long working and walking long distances without fatigue.

deployment of troops at LoC and International Border

1513. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deployment of troops along the LoC and International Border, defensive or keeping a check on infiltration also a part of the move; and

(b) how long the Government propose to keep the troops deployed on the border?